

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 and 25-27 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 13, 20, and 25-27 have been amended as shown on pp. 2, 4, and 6-8 of the Reply. Applicants' representative appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement that claims 20-24 are allowable. The amendments incorporate the allowable claim limitations in the independent claims along with any limitations from intervening claims that are required to support the allowable limitations. Specifically, independent claims 1, 13, and 25-27 have been amended to incorporate the allowable limitations of claim 20 as conveyed to the Examiner over the telephone on April 16, 2008. In view of at least the foregoing, it is believed the application is in condition for allowance - a prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-19 and 25-27 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-19 and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over George *et al.* [George], U.S. Patent No. 6,772,241 in view of May *et al.* [May], U.S. Patent No. 6,366,522. This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. As discussed *supra*, independent claims 1, 13 and 25-27 have been amended to incorporate novel limitations from allowable claim 20. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-19 and 25-27 is moot in view of the amendments to the independent claims and accordingly it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP563US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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